

Successful Meeting with Kingdom Ministers



By the end of this year it is expected that a firm decree will be enacted between Aruba and the Netherlands with respect to the free movement of people between the two countries. This was the message presented by Dutch minister of Immigration, Minister Gerd Leers. Minister Piet Donner, Minister of Internal and Kingdom Affairs, together with his delegation met with Aruban dignitaries to discuss and come up with a preliminary agreement. The rather short encounter included Ministers Benny Sievinger and Otmar Oduber.

Two matters which dominated the meeting with the Dutch dignitaries are the new Vision of our Relationship with the Dutch Kingdom and the Free Trafficking of persons within the Kingdom. The government and people of Aruba are pleased with the approach taken by the two Dutch ministers to propagate the vision of the Kingdom and to give attention to the free traffic of persons, which was a "hot item." Aruba Prime Minister, Mike Eman applauded the open dialogue and forthright openness to discuss these issues and to work towards an even balance in these matters by the

Dutch dignitaries.

Aruba is intent on exploring the many possibilities for working towards common goals and a constructive relationship with the Dutch Kingdom. Eman had high praise for the chosen path of the Dutch ministers and envisions positive results.

On the other hand, Minister Donner also had praise for the progress made by Aruba to improve on their relationship and for the fruitful efforts accomplished thus far. Now it is time to explore how each member of the Kingdom can serve the other more effectively within Europe to South America. There is already some mention of a few projects towards this end.

The Aruban Prime Minister remarked that there will be a follow up to the theme of Kingdom Relations in the upcoming Dutch Kingdom conference planned for later this year.

Minister Leers indicated that, as far as he is concerned, they have come up with certain firm commitments in what he termed, open and understanding discussions to arrive at a new approach to the law pertaining to Person Transit. He claims that the Netherlands is not interested in imposing laws with respect

to this matter, but would rather arrive at a decree based on the interests and circumstances of all the partners involved. Leers believes that what we need is a simple structure which will take into account such matters as geographical circumstances, the local market, as well as Public Ordinances and criminality.

According to Leers, the same conditions which will apply for Aruba should also apply for Dutch Kingdom citizens, and that Dutch Kingdom citizens should also adhere to the laws of the community.

There was also ample discussion on the management of our Immigration department and how to ensure that there is understanding between the two countries. It is their intention to soon sign a Memorandum of Understanding concerning this element. This process will allow Aruba to benefit from law experts who will lend their expertise in the designing of the laws governing the immigration process as well as pertaining to laws regarding asylum seekers. There are very few requests from asylum seekers in Aruba, while in the Netherlands they have some 15 thousand petitions for asylum per year.

Governor's office warns of naturalization scam

ORANJESTAD – From now on, all requests seeking naturalization and a Dutch passport or visa should be filed IN PERSON by the petitioning individual at the Office of the Governor in Oranjestad. This condition has recently been introduced by his office after having heard from various sources that people have become victims of scams by unscrupulous individuals. A press release of the Governor of Aruba advises all to be mindful of this new policy. "Anyone who claims that he can act on behalf of applicants is acting with other motives," warns the Director of the Cabinet, Peter Benson.

The victims reported that there are people who claim they can submit an application for naturalization provisions on their behalf; the necessary documents and money were handed over

then a fraudulent payment receipt is received, which appears to come from the Office of the Governor. The petitioner then never hears anything from the "mediator," or is advised of acceptance or denial of their request.

Furthermore, Mr. Benson warns that before filing an application, individuals should be thoroughly acquainted with all the conditions, and all required documents must be in order before making an appointment with the Office of the Governor. For more information, visit the Cabinet's website: www.kabga.aw Consular Affairs. Petitioners can also make an appointment with the Cabinet of the Governor through this website. The Governor's offices can be reached at telephone 583-4445; it is located at Plaza Henny Eman No 3.

Deadline for nominations for the Felipe B. Tromp Youth Cup is April 20

ORANJESTAD – Every year on Queen's Day, the Felipe B. Tromp Youth Cup is awarded to a youngster or group for outstanding achievement in the previous year either in sports, social or cultural events.

Schools demonstrating outstanding community spirit will also be honored. Maximum age is 18 yrs.

The Felipe B. Tromp Youth Cup is dedicated to our first governor and the period examined for candidates' eligibility this year is from April 1, 2010 to March 31, 2011.

Aruba is known for its dedication to the cultivation of our youth as productive



members of the community, particularly regarding performing voluntary work in sports, cultural, social and religious events.

The nominees must be submitted with an ample description of achievements. Pictures and newspaper

pieces are helpful. The nomination may be delivered personally at the office of BUVO (Informative Services), L.G. Smith Boulevard 26 or via e-mail candelaria.koolman@aruba.gov.aw

Last day to submit the nominations is Wednesday, April 20, 2011

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TUESDAY AND FRIDAY: LIVE MUSIC

Japan plugs leak from nuclear plant

TOKYO, (AFP) - Workers at Japan's crippled atomic power plant yesterday plugged a hole spewing highly radioactive water into the ocean, boosting efforts to contain the world's worst nuclear disaster since Chernobyl.

But in an illustration of how fragile progress is at the Fukushima plant, operator Tokyo Electric Power said it was concerned a build-up of hydrogen gas at a different reactor could cause another explosion at the site.

The water leak was thought to be a source of spiking radiation levels in the sea, which prompted Japan to announce its first seafood radiation safety standards following the discovery of fish with high levels of contamination.

TEPCO workers had injected sodium silicate, a chemical agent known as "water

glass", to solidify soil near a cracked pit where water was escaping into the Pacific.

The pit, which has a 20-centimetre (8-inch) crack in its wall, is linked to the plant's reactor No. 2, one of several that had their cooling systems disabled by a catastrophic earthquake-tsunami disaster on March 11.

Several unsuccessful attempts had been made to try to stop the leak, including an effort to seal the crack with cement.

Despite the rare sign of progress at the plant, shares in TEPCO continued to tumble on Wednesday, closing down 6.9 percent at 337 yen, a new record low, amid expectations of huge compensation claims.

TEPCO, whose shares have lost around 85 percent of their pre-quake value, has said it may need state help to meet claims some analysts say could reach 10 trillion yen (\$118 billion).

The government is considering using around one trillion yen in reserves set aside by TEPCO for reprocessing and disposing of spent nuclear fuel to finance part of the compensation, Kyodo news agency reported.

On Wednesday, the government promised compensation for the fishing industry, a day after increasing unease about the contamination led it to impose a legal limit for radioactive iodine in seafood for the first time.

Levels of radioactive iodine-131 and caesium in seawater immediately outside the plant have spiked, raising fears over marine life in a country whose diet depends heavily on seafood.

TEPCO officials are also concerned that a hydrogen build-up in the housing around reactor No. 1 could react violently with oxygen, creating an explosion.

Home of Japanese ambassador to Ivory Coast attacked

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast (AFP) - Japan's ambassador to Ivory Coast told AFP yesterday he and a dozen people were holed up in a room after his home had been attacked by "mercenaries", who fired rockets and canons from the building.

"Without doubt, they were mercenaries. They entered my residence in the morning shooting RPG (rockets). Myself and about a dozen people are locked in the room which

has a bulletproof door," said Okamura Yoshifumi.

Yoshifumi's home is in Abidjan's northern suburb of Cocody, where Laurent Gbagbo's home is under siege by forces loyal to internationally recognised president Alassane Ouattara, trying to force him to give up power.

"Between 9am and 2pm they fired machine-guns, canons, RPG from my home. I don't know in which direction they were shooting be-

cause we are locked in. It is terrible," said the diplomat.

"There are four people, security agents and the gardener, who have disappeared. There is a lot of blood in the house, bullets everywhere. I don't know if the four are alive.

"They looted, stole everything of value in the house. They left at around 2pm but they are in front of the house. I am afraid they will come back," he said.

Scores missing after Libya refugee boat capsizes

ROME, Italy (AFP) - Scores of people were missing at sea on yesterday after a tiny boat carrying more than 200 African migrants fleeing Libya capsized in the night in three-metre-high waves, officials said.

Coast guard spokesman Vittorio Alessandro told AFP from the southern Italian island of Lampedusa that 50 survivors had been rescued and a helicopter crew aiding the high-seas rescue operation had spotted some 20 bodies near the boat.

"We are still hoping. Our boats and helicopters have thrown all sorts of lifejackets and lifeboats to allow people to hold on," Alessandro said.

Around 130 people who were on the 13-metre (42-foot) boat are believed to be missing, while a fishing boat in the area rescued three more survivors.

The island state of Malta said it was helping to co-ordinate rescue efforts.

Helicopter pilots quoted by Italian news agency ANSA said they had seen "dozens" of corpses in the area including those of small children.

"We hoped one of them

would raise their arm. But no one did," one said.

Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi told reporters he would be visiting the island on Saturday and sent his condolences to victims' relatives.

"The government and I are personally following the tragedy with sorrow and emotion," he said. "We are talking about desperate people, who

had faced the dangers of the crossing in order to reach our coasts and better their lives."

Shaken-looking survivors wrapped in thermal blankets were helped off a coast guard boat on Lampedusa, television images showed. Some, including a heavily pregnant woman, were immediately taken to hospital in ambulances.

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MALAYSIA, Kuala Lumpur : Shop owner Chow Kum Len shows off a paper replica iPad that is produced to be burnt as an offering to the dead during the Qing Ming festival in Kuala Lumpur. Death is no barrier to Chinese ancestors receiving the latest gadgets, with paper iPads, laptops and LCD TVs burned at gravesides across Asia to mark the Qing Ming (Ching Ming) festival this week. The Chinese festival, also known as grave-sweeping day, when replica offerings are burnt for the dead to use in the afterlife.
AFP PHOTO

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There's a new (piano) player in town!

Dueling PianoZ at Zissles presents Kimberly Krohn! This lovely lady from Austin, Texas USA is a veteran of the exhilarating dueling piano bar scene, including more than a decade at the famed Pat O'Brien's in New Orleans' French Quarter. She has also performed solo all over Europe, in Thailand, Mexico and the Caribbean, and aboard Disney Cruise Lines.

When Kimberly graduated high school, she hopped a Greyhound to Pennsylvania and joined a touring show band. For three years, the classically-trained musician played piano and sax and sang for an all-girls heavy metal band. Time tempered her musical style, and Kimberly headed to New Orleans to study jazz. She became a mainstay at Pat



O'Brien's and, later, the Norfolk, Virginia piano club Crocodile Rocks.

Needless to say, Kimberly knows how to entertain a crowd. Aruba can enjoy her music nightly (except Sundays) from 9:15 pm until the end of April at Zissles as she performs together with Cliff Holcomb.

Aruba Permaculture Project April 2011

Aruba's Department of Agriculture, Husbandry & Fisheries has partnered with the Fundacion Aruba Consciente and its founder, Urvin Leest, to organize a week of seminars and workshops regarding "permaculture" - a design system that aims to augment agricultural productivity and efficiency while improving environmental, social, and economic sustainability, largely by mimicking nature's patterns. The word itself is a merging of the terms, "permanent" and "agriculture". However, it spans beyond sustainable agriculture, encompassing all other aspects of human living.

Permaculture brings together disciplines relating to food, shelter, energy, water, waste management, economics, and social sciences. It is a holistic approach, which rec-



Organizers from Santa Rosa, Patty Portier and Nathalie Maduro

ognizes that everything, especially humans and the environment, are interconnected and must be viewed as a complete system. There is a heavy emphasis on the utilization of locally available, affordable, and appropriate technologies; such technologies and methods must absolutely be environmentally friendly and sustainable.

The purpose of the upcoming training, from April 11 to 16, is to introduce government agencies, local organizations, and the public to the key concepts and principles of permaculture and how they can be applied in Aruba to achieve greater social, environmental, and economic sustainability.

Primary focus of the program will be to provide the Department of Agriculture with skills and knowledge towards integrating sustainability techniques into food production on Aruba. Organizer feel it can play a unique role in facilitating the movement toward practices of sustainable agriculture on the island.

The proposed schedule encompasses twelve 1 1/2-3 hour block presentations specifically tailored for a variety of government agencies, local NGO's and other interested parties, as well as four training



Minister is gifted with a candle featuring the new logo

sessions for local farmers.

This is the full schedule of presentations and workshops for the week; those open to the public are noted; venue will be the Santa Rosa offices, except for Wednesday evening at the University of Aruba:

- Monday, April 11, 2011
 - Public event: Introduction to Permaculture and its Benefits to Aruban Residents-7:00 to 9:00 PM
- Tuesday, April 12, 2011
 - Department of Economics, Chamber of Commerce partners, Aruba Trade and Industry Association, WEB NV, SETAR NV, Elmar
 - Presentation for all Environmental NGO's
 - Public event: Benefits of Permaculture for our Environment-6:00 to 8:00 PM
- Wednesday, April 13, 2011
 - Public event: Economic Benefits of Permaculture-7:00 to 9:00 PM
- Thursday, April 14, 2011
 - Public Event: Animal Husbandry and Care for Animal Owners- 8:00 to 11:30 AM
 - Public Event: Traditional Agriculture transformed to Sustainable Agriculture 1:30 to 5:00 PM
 - Public Event: Cultivation that Defies a Harsh Environment-7:00 to 9:00 PM
- Friday, April 15, 2011
 - Public Event: Traditional Agriculture transformed to Sustainable Agriculture - 8:00 to 11:30 AM
 - Public Event: Animal Husbandry and Care for Animal Owners- 1:30 to 5:00 PM
- Saturday, April 16, 2011
 - Public Training: Permaculture Cultivation for Farmers of Aruba-8:00 to 11:30 AM
- Sunday, April 17, 2011
 - There will be three 45-minute "Introduction to Permaculture" mini-training sessions for the public by visiting experts Amber Vacchi and Lisa Knoblauch during the Santa Rosa open house in honor of World Earth Day, April 22, which they will be observing the final Sunday of the conference, and four presentations by the Santa Rosa

staff.

Urvin Leest advised that seating is limited for seminars and advises that interested parties register as soon as possible with Glenda Bareno at Santa Rosa by calling 585-8102. For more information, contact Patty Porier at piportier.work@gmail.com or Nathalie Maduro at nathalie.maduro@gmail.com.

"As a small island nation with the possibility that global warming will seriously impede the future of Aruba itself, it is a crucial time for Aruba to take control of its own ability to attain social, economic, and environmental sustainability," commented organizers of the conference. "Aruba has become increas-



Urvin Leest

ingly dependent on food imports and the majority of the food production is through "conventional" methods. Food security in Aruba is tenuous at best, as access to almost all products is dependent upon other nations. Nos Aruba 2025 acknowledges the volatility of the current global food system and the potential detriment to the Aruban population given the present dependence on food imports."

Resilient Futures International, which is conducting most of the presentations, believes that a major step in addressing some of Aruba's most pressing issues is developing a "sustainability toolbox" which enables Aruba to take charge of its own health and well-being and ensure that the dietary needs of Aruba's people are met while the island's natural resources are well-preserved for future generations.

by Rosalie Klein

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Tourism Excellence in the 21st Century: University of Aruba students reveal their findings of a Cruise Tourism study



Professor Dr. Ryan with investigative team

Saturday, April 16 the University of Aruba will host their 2nd annual Conference on Cruise Tourism conducted by the Faculty of Tourism and International Business. Monday afternoon, a group of students comprised of Tracy Nicolaas, Harshita Ludhani, Carlo Meneses and Francois Croes presented some preliminary findings of a survey they conducted for two months among 975 cruise ship passengers to Aruba, in a preview of the information to be shared and discussed at the upcoming event.

Greater than half of Aruba's visitors annually are off cruise ships; records show an increase from receiving 100,000 passengers annually in 1980 to well over 600,000 in 2010. The Aruba Tourism Authority reports they expected to break their all-time monthly record with 100,000 passengers arriving in March, and came very close in January of 2011 with over 99,000.

Students conducting the survey examined the topics of visitor satisfaction and loyalty. "What did the first time visitor expect of Aruba, and were those expectations met or exceeded? How did Aruba compare to other ports of call? Would they return to Aruba and recommend it to friends?" These are examples of the questions put to those surveyed and the students agree the results were generally on par with other destinations.

In the past, U of A tourism surveys queried resort and timeshare guests who spent at least 2 or 3 days on the island; the university felt that for a more integrated perspective, it was essential to analyze the cruise industry as well. "The potential of the cruise industry

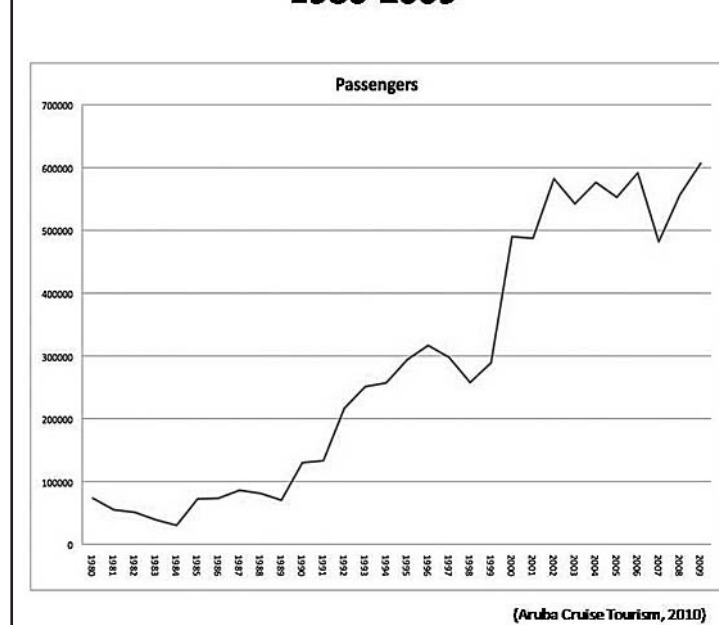
in bringing new business to Aruba as overnight visitors and consequently, loyal repeat visitors, cannot be over-emphasized," stated Dr. Peterson.

Survey statistics reveal that in specific areas of definition, Aruba scores close to the average for the Caribbean overall; slightly higher in Friendliness

A rundown of how much each visitor usually spends when on the island reveals that cruise passengers are responsible for \$150 million dollars income annually for a number of businesses including shops, tour operators, restaurants and car rentals. Active tours such as water sports and land tours are generally more popular than "heritage tours" which usually attract an "older" demographic, and provide greater insight into the history and culture of the island.

All of these aspects are combined in the concept of the "Branding" of Aruba, which will be explored in depth during the Competitive Cruising Conference. Several pertinent topics will be address during the all-day event beginning at 9:00 AM. Tamara Waldron and Alfonso Boekhoudt of the Aruba Ports Authority have cooperated in the organization of the conference, and those wishing to attend the various

**Growth in Aruba's Cruise Tourism
1980-2009**



of Residents, Variety of Things to See and Do, and Overall Shopping Experience, but slightly lower in Visit Met Expectations, and noticeably less when asked if they would return to Aruba. Tracy Nicolaas noted this response came more from European based visitors than those from North America, but this is a common reaction in overnight visitors from Europe as well, as they often cite Aruba as "too Americanized." On a scale of 1 to 10, the Caribbean in general only received a 4.3 rating from those surveyed whether they would return, with Aruba given a 4.0.

workshops can register with Professor Dr. Ryan Peterson via e-mail. ryan.peterson@ua.aw.

This coming Saturday, April 9, University of Aruba will also be hosting an open house for all faculties for students and parents demonstrating the various degrees they now offer; the school expanded their curriculum to include a Faculty of Science and Arts (FAS), which offers programs in the fields of Organization and Management; Healthcare; Social Studies; Education and Language and Culture.

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Those were the days

By: Roland W. Peterson



It was just before sun rise
The moon was waning
As a little boy I sat next to my
father in the cabin of the old pick-up -truck
I was listening to the sea slapping at
the cliff formation along the coast

The wind was howling like little wolves trying
to enter through the cracks in the cabin
From a distance, driven by the mighty trade wind,
the smell of fresh brewed coffee made me sit
up straight

In the distance I saw the silhouette
of the elderly lady with the big
familiar metal coffee pot in one hand
In the other hand she was holding the bread basket

As she got closer the aroma of coffee and the smell
of fresh baked bread tickled my empty stomach
A gentle tap on the door
Thick slices of cheese melting in the "Pan Francis"

The sun rays light up the morning
The sign is given
The dormant figures on the beach
spring to life.

The net is loaded in the boat
The net is set
Now they await the famous shout:
Haul, haul, haul.

Purchasing property in Aruba: Retirement home or investment - why not both?



View of Jardines del Mar community

uation has changed, and we realize we need to be flexible.”

Their prime corner units have larger kitchens and terraces than the other Jardines Del Mar properties, along with more windows, spacious rooms with large closets and a huge walk-in closet in the master bedroom, for a total of 2,000 square feet. The kitchen has brand new stainless steel appliances and a microwave, which is included in the sale price, and there is an additional outdoor kitchen and terrace, where they installed a barbecue in their home and entertain frequently. The management boasts a full time concierge, wi-fi, excellent security, and the complimentary fitness room will be completed by the end of 2011. For those considering owning property on Aruba, Terry may have exactly what you seek, at quite a bargain price. For more information call Terry at 743-1265; she can answer many of your questions regarding being a homeowner on Aruba based on her own experience.

The Orgels will continue to live at Jardines Del Mar even after the sale of their property. They love the section of Eagle Beach which is only a block away, and Terry regularly participates in water aerobics at Windie's Water Sport Center, which is right next to their community. “Buying our own home in Aruba was the wisest thing we ever did; we couldn't be happier. We encourage anyone considering this move to take the plunge, it was well worth it!”

As the Caribbean's #1 return destination, we are all aware of how visitors are quickly won over by Aruba's many assets; the perfect weather and charming people always invoke thoughts of making it a winter or retirement home. Terry Orgel and her husband Richard made just such a choice when they toured the cozy Jardines Del Mar community adjacent to Eagle Beach a few years ago, purchasing not only a townhouse for their personal use, but an identical 3 bedroom/3 bath home as an investment.

“We were particularly impressed with the quality of construction and design; we love the high cathedral ceilings, along with the layout of the community,” explains Terry, “the way the grounds and homes are maintained have convinced us we made the right choice.”

Terry and Richard, natives of Memphis, also appreciate the feeling of small town community to which they were accustomed, and love the way they have come to know all their neighbors. They spend their winters on Aruba from December to April, and six weeks in the summer, escaping the worst cold and heat back home.

The unoccupied townhouse is in pristine condition; they are now putting it up for sale at the pre-construction price they paid for it, \$395,000. This is 20% less than the developers are asking for a new unit. “When we purchased, we considered renting it out, but then decided we just wanted to simplify our lives and not be landlords. We also believed real estate prices could only go up, but the world sit-



Enjoying the view every morning

2011 Kia Optima/Sportage receive Red Dot Design awards



In this year's red dot product design competition in Germany, the top honors in two categories went to the new Kia Optima saloon and Sportage crossover SUV. The jury also gave a special tribute to the new Optima, giving it the red dot “best of the best” title - the competition's highest award for groundbreaking design.

The most recent victories bring the number of red dot awards given to Kia models to four, with the Kia Soul in 2009 and the Kia Venga winning in 2010.

In December 2010, the new Sportage and the Kia Optima also won 2011 iF product design awards. Kia Motors Corporation's Chief Design Officer, Peter Schreyer, said the carmaker is “extremely proud” of the red dot awards for the Kia Optima and the Sportage, adding that Kia is “particularly thrilled about the ‘best of the best’ award for the new Optima.”

Commenting on the awards Peter Schreyer, Chief Design Officer, Kia Motors Corporation. “We are extremely proud of the red dot awards for the Kia Optima and the Sportage. They are a great acknowledgment of the work our international design teams have done and an endorsement of our design strategy,” he continued “Naturally, we are particularly thrilled about the ‘best of the best’ award for the new Optima.”



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Sci-Tech

Reppler helps Facebook users look good online

SAN FRANCISCO (AFP) — Startup Reppler launched a service Tuesday to help people shine on Facebook pages that have become resources checked by employers, college recruiters and even potential mates.

Reppler warns Facebook users about pictures or written posts that might hurt their images, highlights public information best kept private and rates how members of the leading social network look online.

"People are concerned about overall perception from the outside world," said Vlad Gorelik, who worked at cyber security firm AVG Technologies before starting Reppler in the Silicon Valley city of Palo Alto.

"They are worried about things like security and privacy, but also how what they share on social networks impacts their jobs and careers."

It is increasingly common for job recruiters or hiring managers to check Facebook profiles of candidates and search online to influence decisions.

Free Reppler software analyzes digital content people put on their Facebook pages along with material about them posted by others.

"Your wall on Facebook is not only your posts, it is posts by your friends or by applications such as games," Gorelik said, referring to spaces on Facebook profile pages where friends can leave comments.

Reppler checks the tone of messages and lets people know if they come across sounding perpetually angry or unhappy.

The software also notes when timing of posts might reveal unflattering behavior, such as having popular online game "Farmville" continuously running during work hours or if people are busy posting to Facebook on the job.

Reppler also flags seemingly inappropriate profile content such as strong language, derogatory remarks or references to booze or drugs.

"If you work in a bar, references to alcohol are perfectly normal," Gorelik said.

"If you work at a conservative law firm, it might not be

something you want on your wall."

Reppler points out potentially troublesome material and then takes people to the Facebook tools for removing the information or adjusting privacy settings.

"Sometimes, we post a little too much," Gorelik said. "If you are connected to your mom on Facebook, and your mom's maiden name is a security question used to reset passwords, someone could use that to hijack your account."

Reppler software detects over-sharing of information as well as spam links posted to Facebook walls by hackers out to lure people to websites rigged with malicious software.

The growing reality is that comments made online might as well be shouted in public streets.

Reputation.com chief executive Michael Fertik rattled off data a typical person reveals online:

"Your musical preferences, who your friends are, what you buy, where you

live, where you travel, where you surf on the Internet, what your health hazards are, what you eat, what exercise, what size clothes you wear, what the names of all your family members are, your political affiliations."

That's without the drunken photos, sexual boasts, online rants or other lapses in judgment at popular Internet venues such as Facebook, Flickr, YouTube or Twitter.

People's pasts are lingering to haunt them in the Web's vast archives of data.

For advertisers, that sea of Web data is a goldmine allowing them to target millions of people with ads

tailored to their online profiles. For bosses and the simply curious, it's a giant keyhole to peep through.

Hiring managers routinely search for information about applicants on Google -- it's dubbed the Google handshake -- and a Microsoft survey found that 70 percent of company representatives had turned down candidates after finding something they didn't like.

Fertik's company can clean up a person's Internet history, deleting some unwanted posts and burying the rest in more positive information so that at least an initial Google Handshake comes up clean.



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Health & Living

Skin cancer triples among young British people

LONDON, England (AFP) – The use of sunbeds and lack of care on summer holidays have seen levels of skin cancer soar among young people, with more than two Britons under 35 being diagnosed every day, according to a study by Cancer Research UK.

Rates of malignant melanoma have tripled among those aged 15 to 34 since the late 1970s, the analysis shows.

The number of cases of melanoma has risen to 5.9 per 100,000 people from 1.8 cases in the earlier period.

It is thought sunbeds are playing a role in boosting can-

cer rates among young people, as well as failing to use sufficient protection against the sun's strong rays while on holiday abroad.

Launching its annual Sun-Smart campaign, which promotes the use of suntan lotion and covering up in midday sun, the charity said more than 900 young Britons are newly-diagnosed with the disease each year.

It also warned that older people are at risk, with skin cancer rates rising among all age groups.

Sara Hiom, director of health information at Cancer Research UK, said: "While

some sunshine is good for us, going red and burning can be dangerous.

"The most important thing people can do to reduce their chances of developing skin cancer is to make sure they don't get red or burn.

"And the best way to do that is to get to know your skin and how long you can safely stay in the sun, and also avoid sunbeds." "With summer approaching after such a harsh winter, everyone is looking forward to enjoying some sunshine. But it's more important than ever to be aware of the dangers of getting sunburnt."

20 Philippines people dead in diarrhoea outbreak

MANILA (AFP) – At least 20 members of a remote cave-dwelling Philippine tribe have been killed in an outbreak of diarrhoea, the health department said on.

Most of the fatalities were children aged under five from the nomadic Palawanon tribe, according to Dr Manuel Mapue.

The full extent of the outbreak, which began on March 27, is unknown as the tribe, based in the mountains of the western island of Palawan, is extremely isolated.

"Most of the casualties did not seek consultations from health officers because they are tribesmen living in caves in the mountainous part of the district which is a five-hour walk from the nearest village," Mapue told AFP.

He said there have been 90 recorded cases of diarrhoea so far but there may be even more undocumented cases.

The tribe may have come across a contaminated stream during their nomadic travels,



Members of the Palawan Tribe

leading to the outbreak, said the doctor.

The tribe does not boil their drinking water or use chlorine tablets, making them even more vulnerable, he added.

Mapue said his team will go to Palawan island today to check the water sources for contamination and test members of the tribe.

Anthropologists say about 30,000 people speak several dialects associated with the Palawanon tribe, whose members live in isolated communities scattered in the interiors of Palawan.

Cameron says health service reform 'essential'



Demonstrators protest in London in January against the government's National Health Service reforms.

LONDON, England (AFP) – Prime Minister David Cameron yesterday warned that overhauling the National Health Service is "essential" as he launched a fightback against criticism of the plans.

Launching a "listening exercise" in response to anger from unions and patient groups over the radical plans, Cameron said he was willing to make changes but added wholesale reform was the only way forward.

"The status quo is not an

option," he told NHS workers in Frimley, southeast England, during a launch event with Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg and Health Secretary Andrew Lansley.

"Modernisation is not just a good idea to save money and build a better health service. It is in my view essential for a better NHS for our future," Cameron added.

But he also reassured the health workers: "We will listen and we will make any necessary changes."

Major changes proposed by the coalition include taking away control for managing budgets from local boards and handing it to family doctors.

The reforms would also see the private sector have a greater role in running health services.

But opposition is growing amid fears more competition will lead to the closure of some NHS units and over the speed at which the government wants to push the plans through.

Successive British governments have struggled against fierce opposition to major reforms of the NHS despite frequent criticism over poor performance.

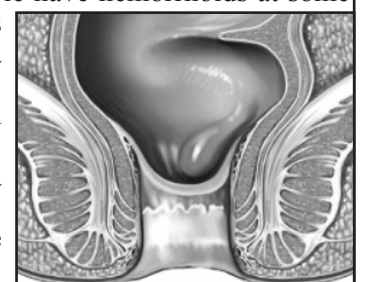
The NHS, which was launched in 1948 and has grown to become the world's largest publicly funded health service, is committed to providing treatment free at the point of use to anyone resident in Britain.

Health Tip: Risk Factors for Hemorrhoids

-- Hemorrhoids are painful, swollen blood vessels that form near the rectum. Symptoms often include pain, discomfort, anal itching and bloody stools.

The National Digestive Diseases Information Clearinghouse says about 75 percent of people have hemorrhoids at some point. The agency mentions these factors that increase a person's risk:

- * Having frequent constipation or diarrhea.
- * Pushing too hard during a bowel movement.
- * Spending a long time on the toilet.
- * Getting insufficient dietary fiber.
- * Being pregnant.



even diarrhea may cause hemorrhoid




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First Sherwin Williams establishment of the Caribbean opens on Aruba



ORANJESTAD – Recently, Minister of Economic and Social Affairs and Culture, Michelle Hooyboer-Winklaar, together with Sherwin Williams Regional Manager George Ponader III, affected the ribbon cutting ceremony of the franchise's newest establishment situated on the L.G. Smith Boulevard, adjacent to Ritz. This franchise is very active in the Caribbean, but the Aruba opening marked the first of their stores in the Southern Caribbean region.

In her speech, Minister Hooyboer-Winklaar said the occasion demonstrates the

trust of commercial developers in our economy; this is especially gratifying and en-

couraging, when taking into account the generally weak global investment situation, particularly in the construction sector.

There is still enormous confidence by developers in Aruba's potential, and figures reveal the island still enjoys economic growth with a GDP increase of 9%. The Minister expressed "The best part is that Sherwin Williams will contribute to this growth."

George Ponader III stated that there are plans to expand in the entire region, starting with Aruba. Their facility offers a wide variety of articles, not only paints - which come from Orlando, Florida, the quality of which greatly impressed those attending the opening.



Riba is on the look-out for friends and family members

We would like to introduce Riba to you, one of the donkeys living at the Aruban Donkey Sanctuary. She came to the sanctuary in 2008: the volunteers received a phone call that a baby donkey had been hit by a car at Kas Ariba. Once there the volunteers could capture the mother as well as her offspring. First of all, the little one received aid and was taken to the sanctuary. When the volunteers went back for the mother, however, she had vanished together with the gate she had been tied to. The little donkey was baptized Riba, referring to the location where she was found. The vet was called and he diagnosed a fracture, just beneath the hip bone. An operation was not an option, so the leg had to heal by itself. Fortunately, this went according to plan. Although Riba still has a crooked hind leg, she is not suffering at all. She is frolicking the days away together with her friend Storm, having the time of her life.

Riba has a chip, just like the other donkeys. This way she can be recognized and all her medical information is on it. All the donkeys at the sanctuary are well-cared for: they get their food and drink and when



they are sick the vet is called. Yes, they are expensive customers.

The volunteers are now looking for people who wish to adopt Riba. She will stay at the sanctuary, of course; the only thing that is needed is that AWG. 30,- per month is paid for her keep. In this way you help support this wonderful donkey as well as the sanctuary. You will receive a nice document and a super T-shirt. And if you like, your name and photo will be posted on our website.

Please call the Donkey Sanctuary at 593 2933 and become Riba's new family member; you can also register as an adoptive parent via our website www.arubandonkey.org, or deposit a donation on our Aruba Bank account 40.03.025. Please help!

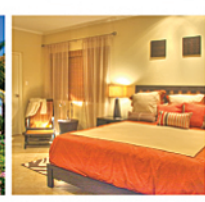
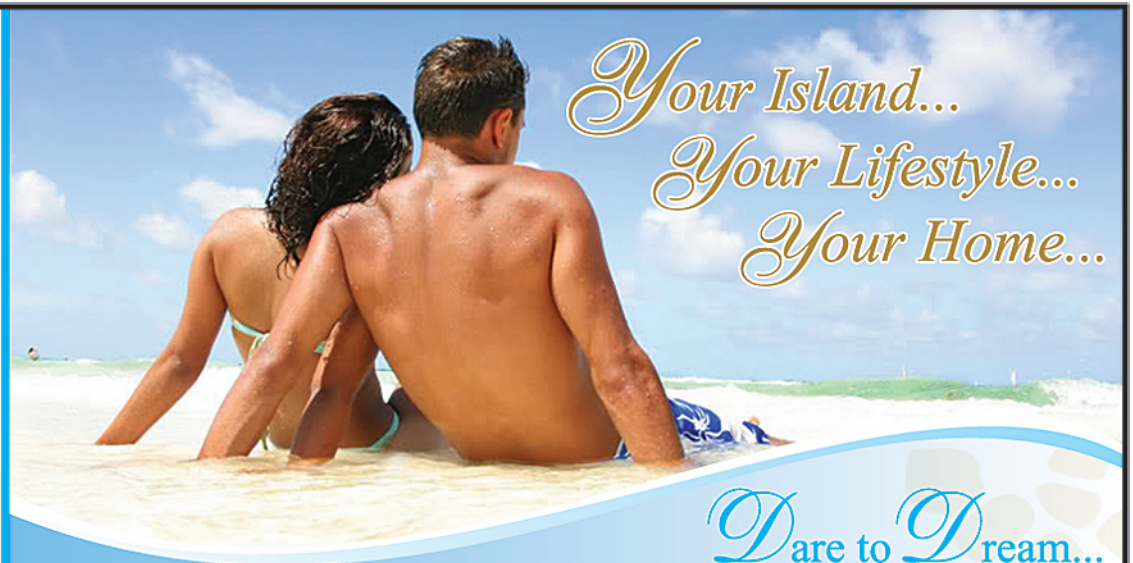
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Story telling, poetry and more for Aruba's senior citizens



A well-motivated team of librarians and sound technicians from Biblioteca Nacional Aruba, together with well-known local poets, authors and storytellers will present a special storytelling program to the elderly starting this week. They will visit the elderly homes on Thursday mornings for the next 3 months. The senior citizens will experience a morning with literature, music, dancing and movie watching.

Goal of the story-telling project is to help keep the clients socially active as well as to stimulate reading. Also, the seniors are triggered to dig up and share nice memories of times gone by.

The story telling project is specifically designed for the less mobile group in the society, the residents of the different elderly homes on the island. The project turned out to be quite successful in the past 5 years.

This year the service club Kiwanis Palm Beach approved the library's request to co-sponsor this project and helps out to cover some basic expenses. This enables the library to continue this service to the senior citizens in 2011.

A special thanks goes to Kiwanis Palm Beach. Mrs. Munye Oduber-Winklaar is the first author to entertain the seniors, followed by the charming couple Mr. Dolfi Kock en Mrs. Belen Kock-Marchena. And last but not least Mr. Marco Christiaans.



COMICS

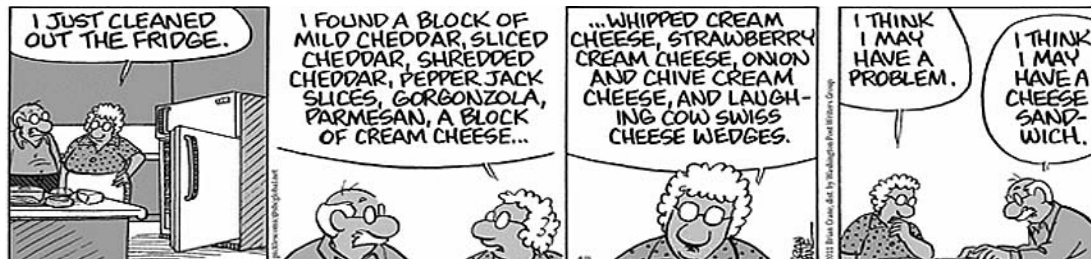
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CALVIN and HOBBS



CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1. Pup's sound
4. 2003 Will Ferrell movie
7. Discharge
11. Ego
13. Lad
14. "WKRP" alum Anderson
15. Stylist's focus
16. Mike Hammer's creator
18. Persian or Ottoman
20. Fleming and

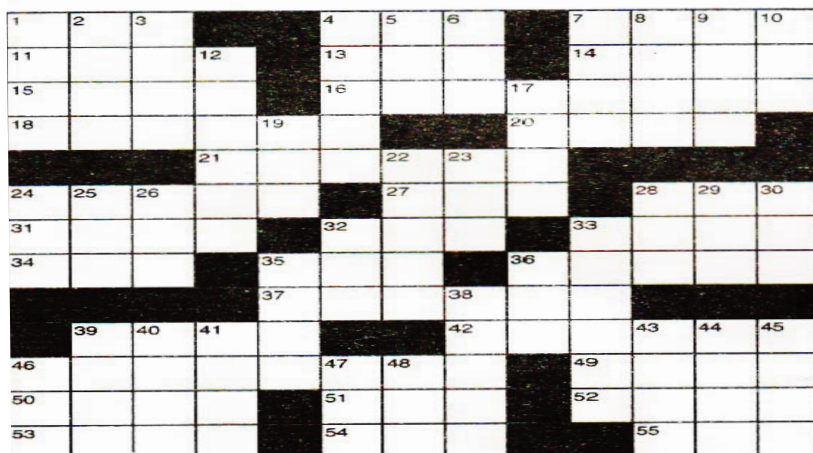
21. Of teeth
24. Tunes
27. ___ League
28. Bad (prefix)
31. Pennsylvania county
32. Summertime drink
33. Infant
34. Frying ___
35. RR depot
36. Lavished affection
37. Assisted
39. At this point
42. Thailand natives, e.g.
46. Savage
49. Fix a manuscript
50. Jai ___

51. Ambulance worker (abbr.)
52. Mall special
53. T-man Elliot
54. "Vinyl" (abbr.)
55. Ran across

DOWN

1. Tennis great Arthur
2. Paper batch
3. Gymnast's move
4. Actor Buddy
5. Cut awkwardly
6. Memo abbr.
7. Singer Fitzgerald
8. Pained sound
9. Rustic

- lodgings
10. Dad's accessory
12. Place for a raid
17. Comic Tomlin (abbr.)
19. Dweller (abbr.)
22. ___ wave
23. Wide rdwy.
24. Between Aug. and Oct.
25. "Are you a man ___ mouse?" (2 wds.)
26. Author Anaïs
28. Gymnast's pad
29. Pres. Lincoln
30. Went first
32. Noshed
33. Our physical selves
35. Mets' old stadium
36. ___ Moines
38. Agreements
39. Very fit
40. Historical ages
41. Hitters' stats
43. Eve's man
44. African river
45. Proofreading instruction
46. Prohibit
47. Uncle or cousin (abbr.)
48. Evil spirit



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Fri.-Sun. 9 p.m.-2 a.m.

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Telephone
Numbers

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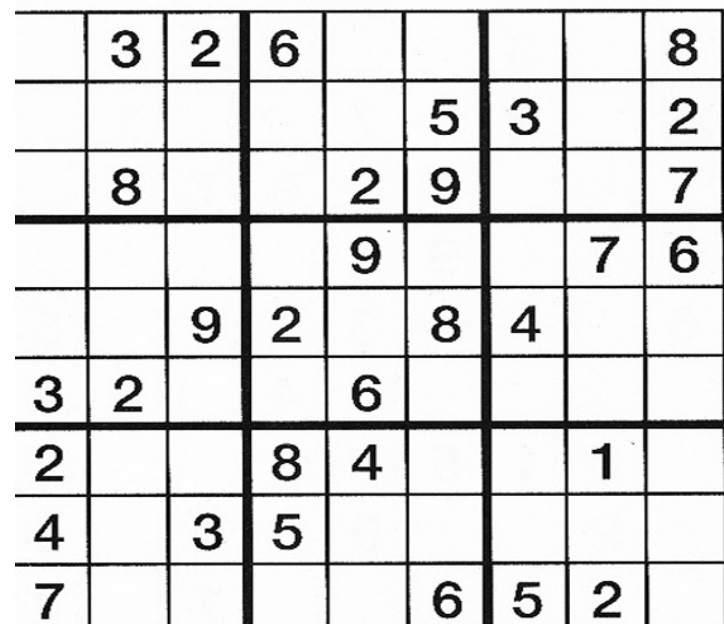
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Sudoku



SOLUTION

4	7	9	9	8	6	8	1	2
6	8	2	2	1	9	8	9	7
8	1	9	2	7	8	9	6	2
9	6	8	1	9	2	7	2	8
1	8	7	8	9	2	6	2	9
9	2	8	8	6	7	1	9	8
2	7	1	6	2	8	9	8	9
2	9	8	9	8	1	2	7	6
8	9	6	7	2	9	2	8	1

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9
A number is Never repeated in a row or column.
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9



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Satyam to pay \$10 million to settle SEC charges

WASHINGTON (AFP) – Satyam Computer Services has agreed to pay \$10 million to settle US charges that former top managers inflated the Indian company's revenue, the US Securities and Exchange Commission said.

The SEC, in a complaint filed in US District Court here, alleged that former top officials at Hyderabad-based Satyam overstated the software firm's revenue, income and cash balances by more than \$1 billion over five years.

They used false invoices and forged bank statements to inflate Satyam's cash balances to make the company appear more profitable to investors, the SEC said.

Satyam shocked India's corporate world in January 2009 when its former chairman and founder B. Ramalinga Raju admitted he had for years overstated profits and inflated the balance sheet.

The fraud nearly pushed the group into bankruptcy and Raju, who had been one of the stars of the software boom that has been a driver of India's economic growth, now faces charges including conspiracy, cheating and forgery.

=====

Dish Network buys Blockbuster for \$320mn



NEW YORK (AFP) – The once-dominant US video chain Blockbuster was sold at auction to satellite TV chain Dish Network for just \$320 million after mismanagement and on-line competition pushed it into bankruptcy.

Dish Network said that it expected to pay only \$228 million for the company, which has 1,700 stores, after "certain adjustments" on cash and inventory are made.

Once a network of more than 7,200 stores in the United States and 17 other countries, Blockbuster declared bankruptcy on September 23 and went into Chapter 11 reorganization with one billion dollars in debt.

It fell victim to competition from low-priced mail delivery of movies by Netflix, kiosk rental outlets such as Redbox, and on-line on-demand movie and TV services from Netflix and others, including Dish Network.

=====

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Tanker leaves port with Libyan rebel oil consignment

TOBRUK, Libya (AFP) - A tanker left the Libyan port of Tobruk yesterday carrying the first consignment of oil since the rebel government won recognition from some countries, an AFP journalist reported.

The Greek-owned, Liberian-registered tanker left a terminal near Tobruk, 130 kilometres (80 miles) from the Egyptian border.

It had docked a day earlier in order to load the consignment of Libyan crude worth up to 100 million dollars for export, the first since the international coalition air strikes began on March 19 and destined to finance the rebel fight against leader Moamer Kadhafi's forces.

Two consignments had already left the port between the end of February and mid-March, according to Fethi Faraj, a local rebel official.

But this was the first for which the rebels had taken

full responsibility, from extraction right up to delivery and it was not simply a question of filling previous orders.

"We could accommodate around 10 tankers a month. If each carried half-a-million barrels' worth of oil, that would be five million a month and at the present price per barrel that would be more than 500 million dollars," Abdel Salem Naji, manager of a pilot company in the port of Tobruk, said.

"This port is very important for our new government."

The tanker which left port on Wednesday could carry up to a million barrels of oil, making a full cargo worth around 120 million dollars at current prices.

Michelle Bockmann, markets editor of shipping news and data provider Lloyd's List, said the last oil shipment from Libya was on March 18,

and that there had been "none at all" since then.

"I think it will send a very strong message that international oil (exporting) is going to resume," added Bockmann.

She said there were separate unconfirmed reports of other ships that could be heading for Libya at some stage. "There are several tankers that analysts are looking at that could be heading for (Libyan) ports. We are not sure."

Libya, a key crude-exporting nation that was producing some 1.7 million barrels a day (bpd) before the uprising broke out in mid-February, has seen its output slashed since.

According to the International Energy Agency, Libya's exports averaged 1.49 million bpd before the uprising, with 85 percent of that going to Europe.

Obama, Santos to clear way for free trade deal

WASHINGTON (AFP) - US President Barack Obama and Colombia's President Juan Manuel Santos will approve an agreement today lifting the final obstacles to a bilateral free trade agreement, US officials said.

Ron Kirk, the US trade representative, said the two presidents will sign the agreement, laying out steps to protect labor rights in Colombia and clearing the way for ratification of the free trade agreement this year.

"We are now in a position to announce an agreement on an 'Action Plan Related to Labor Rights' that outlines a number of steps that Colombia has agreed it will undertake," Kirk said in a conference call with reporters.

Santos was in the United States on Wednesday and was expected to travel to Washington today to meet Obama and sign the agreement, he said.

It should eliminate the final barrier to a free trade agreement that was signed by the two countries in 2006 during the administration of George W. Bush, but which has languished in the US Congress.

Democrats have held up ratification of the treaty, raising concerns about attacks on union leaders in Colombia and demanding greater protections for labor organizers and labor rights.

Kirk said the action plan "significantly expands the protection for labor leaders and union organizers, it bolsters efforts to hold accountable and punish those who have perpetrated violence against union members and makes a number of important steps to strengthen labor laws and their enforcement."

He said it details action Colombia must take before the agreement is fully ratified.

Some steps must be taken before the administration sends the treaty to Congress, others before the Congress votes, and others over the course of the year, he said.

The White House said the free trade agreement will expand US exports to Colombia by more than 1.1 billion dollars, giving key US goods and services duty free access in sectors ranging from manufacturing to agriculture.

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer

B	A	D	A	R	F	B	L	A	H
A	B	E	M	U	C	H	A	I	D
L	I	P	O	N	C	E	S	L	A
L	E	T	O	U	T	M	R	I	
			A	N	S	M	E	L	O
M	A	T	T	D	E	F	R	U	E
C	A	P	S	D	I	D	D	E	E
A	G	E	N	I	N	F	O	O	L
B	I	S	H	O	P	S	A	G	
		A	S	P	L	I	S	P	E
K	N	O	T	E	W	E	R	T	A
F	A	R	E	R	E	E	L	A	T
C	P	A	S	S	P	Y	S	S	T

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Popular Pizza Bob's is perfect for casual dining



A popular hangout with Eagle Beach temporary residents

Everyone has those nights when they want an easy, casual meal, and among denizens of the Eagle Beach area, their favorite place for fun food and friendly surroundings is Pizza Bob's, right next to the Bucuti Beach resort parking lot.

Maitre D' Alex adores welcoming his abundant repeat clientele, being five minutes walk from most of Aruba's timeshares has made the place a prime eatery among families with healthy appetites. Their pizza is modeled on the classic thin crust typical of Chicago's Southside, and the secret recipe of a famous pizzeria since 1957, which we dare not name as we might get whacked!

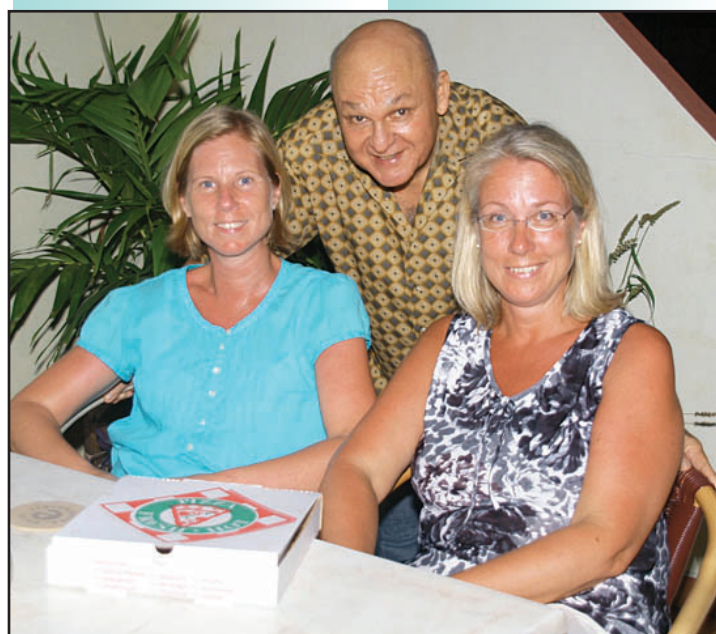
While checking out the locale, Alex introduced us to Sharla and Caroline from Sweden, frequent visitors to Aruba who can't imagine a vacation without several dinner stops at Pizza Bob's. This was the general consensus of all the guests who we spoke with during our time there; all make it a multiple meal choice during their vacation. "I have one couple from Germany who eat here every night of their vacation," confessed Alex, "they are like family to us!"

Aside from the famous

pizzas, the menu features very tasty barbecue, a personal favorite of Caroline, lasagna, Fresh Vegetable Linguini and huge salads that can be shared by two, plus a personal favorite for dessert,

eatery into a congenial hangout until closing time.

If you love your pizza and island ambiance, Pizza Bob's is the perfect place for a fun night. Open for lunch and dinner every day from



Swedish sisters Sharla and Carolina are huge fans of Pizza Bob's

"Death by Chocolate." They do sport an air-conditioned dining room, which is popular at lunch time to escape the tropical mid-day sun, but nighttime is the right time to enjoy their outdoor terrace and great music from noted island singer Tommy every Wednesday and Saturday night, which converts the

11:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m., and they deliver to all the resorts in the Eagle Beach area. Call 588 9040 ext. 790 for delivery or to pre-order. They also feature a daily happy hour from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. when you can enjoy a large size pizza for the price of a medium and drinks are 2-for-1; what a deal!

Oregon thief with "good taste" nips \$2,300 cognac

PORTLAND, Oregon — A masked, quick-moving thief smashed a liquor store window early on Monday in suburban Portland and walked off with a bottle of cognac valued at more than \$2,300.

"He has good taste," said

Lt. Mike Rouches a spokesman for the Hillsboro police. "He knew exactly what he was after."

The robber took the \$2,363.45 bottle of Remy Martin Louis XIII cognac, 11 fine -- but cheaper -- bottles of cog-

nac and 12 packs of menthol cigarettes at about 3:15 a.m. local time on Monday, Rouches said.

"I've not seen a theft like this. Usually they grab whatever they can," Rouches said.

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Royal wedding fever grips TV trade show



CANNES, France (AFP) - British broadcasters are offering their international counterparts an array of royal-related products at the MIPTV trade show this week ahead of the much-anticipated royal wedding.

Up for sale at the world's premier market for buying and selling programming are documentaries about Prince William and fiancée Kate Middleton to historical shows about royal weddings over the decades.

A one-off special produc-

tion by Britain's BBC Worldwide, "William and Kate: A Royal Engagement", has already been snapped up by 32 broadcasters in over 24 markets from the United States and Italy to Thailand and Australia.

With contributions from historians, biographers and friends of the couple, it promises viewers an insight into Wills and Kate's very different backgrounds and upbringings, and tracks the events leading up to their engagement.

The BBC is also pitching a two-part documentary, "Britain's Royal Weddings," that reaches deep into the archives of the world's biggest public broadcaster to explore footage of royal marriages since 1923.

In doing so, the programme reveals how social attitudes and national circumstances have influenced what the public has come to expect from Britain's royal nuptials.

"Inside the Royal Wedding" goes behind the scenes to follow the preparations for

the April 29 wedding, following VIP guests, florists and outfitters to the royal household and charting the excitement and nightmares surrounding a wedding that the world will be watching.

Britain's main commercial broadcaster ITV is offering foreign buyers a one-hour film in high definition of all aspects of the big day, from the excitement of the crowds to the full ceremony itself and the couple's balcony appearance at Buckingham Palace.

From Canada, the Global Telemedia group is offering a 50-minute retrospective, "The Royals", with footage of historic moments in the lives of the royal family.

US chat show legend Oprah Winfrey is also getting into the royal mood -- her cable network has prepared a two-part, 90-minute special, "Prince William and Catherine: A Royal Love Story".

And Food Network UK is covering the culinary side of things with "Secrets Of The Royal Kitchen" featuring chef Graham Newbould, a former personal chef to Prince Charles.



LONDON, UK : A work of art entitled 'Madonna and Child', which represents Michael Jackson dangling his baby son out of a window, by Swedish-born artist Maria von Kohler is pictured in east London, on April 6, 2011. A statue of Michael Jackson dangling his baby son out of a hotel window has been erected in Britain, sparking anger today from die-hard fans of the late pop icon. The life-sized sculpture, entitled "Madonna and Child", depicts the notorious incident when the singer held his youngest son Prince Michael II out of the window in Berlin in 2002 in front of hundreds of shocked fans.

AFP PHOTO

Cricket: Sri Lanka cricket vice-captain, selectors quit



COLOMBO (AFP) – Veteran batsman Mahela Jayawardene quit as vice-captain and a three-member selection committee also resigned en masse in a major shake-up in Sri Lankan cricket following the team's World Cup defeat.

"I think it's time to move on, give the reins to someone younger in the team," Jayawardene told AFP.

The resignations came a day after Kumar Sangakkara stepped down as one-day and Twenty20 captain.

Jayawardene, 33, was vice-captain for the World Cup, where Sri Lanka lost to India by six wickets in the final in Mumbai last week despite his impressive century.

Sri Lanka Cricket chairman D. S. de Silva said the governing body had accepted Jayawardene's resignation.

Jayawardene, who has scored 9,527 runs in Tests and 9,423 in one-day internationals, quit as Sri Lanka captain in February 2009.

The selectors, led by former batsman Aravinda de Silva, also handed in their resignations to Sports Minister Mahindananda Aluthgamage. De Silva was the vice-captain of the 1996 World Cup-winning Sri Lankan side.

Sangakkara stood down on Tuesday to allow selectors to groom new leaders for the next cricket World Cup in 2015.

Sri Lanka's next international assignment is the tour of England in May-July for three Tests and five one-dayers.

Football: Japan rethinking Copa America pull-out

TOKYO, Japan (AFP) – Japan will rethink its withdrawal from the Copa America following the March 11 earthquake and tsunami which disrupted the domestic football calendar, a senior Japanese official said.

The Argentina Football Association, which hosts the South American championship in Argentina from July 1, has asked Japan to reconsider its decision to pull-out of the event, Japan Football Association (JFA) vice president Kozo Tashima said.

"The Japanese association for its part has not reached a final conclusion," he said, according to the Jiji Press news agency and other media.

"We will reconsider whether we can send a national team by using our wisdom more than ever."

JFA president Junji Ogura told South American Football Confederation president (CONMEBOL) Nicolas Leoz on Monday that the Asian champions cannot take part in the tournament, where

they were invited as guests along with Mexico.

The nation's J-League has suspended its season for five rounds until April 23 to save the electricity used during night matches, planning instead to play the postponed matches in July.

The month has been originally set as a summer break to free up players for the Copa America, prompting Japan's withdrawal.

But Argentina Football Association president Julio Grondona met with Ogura on Tuesday and urged Japan to rethink their decision, according to Tashima.

"They wanted to position the South American championship as an event to support Japan's reconstruction," he said.

"It won't be easy to reach a conclusion. We could either withdraw or go," Tashima said, adding that his association has until April 15 to make a final decision.

CONMEBOL secretary general Eduardo Deluca, said meanwhile he was "opti-

mistic" that Japan would make it to Argentina.

"We have asked them to make a final effort and we are going to help them - they have many players based abroad who surely would be amenable to participating," suggested Deluca, who also met with Ogura.

The 9.0-magnitude quake and tsunami devastated Japan's Pacific coast and crippled a nuclear power plant, also causing wide-ranging electricity cuts and heavy disruption to football, baseball and other sporting events.

Meanwhile, amid reports that Costa Rica or even world champions Spain might step in for the Japanese, a Spanish Football Federation spokesman told AFP that body would meet on April 13 to discuss whether or not to take up an invitation from organisers to participate.

"This issue is set to be on the agenda at the upcoming meeting," the spokesman said.



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Cavendish sprints to GP de l'Escaut victory



Britain's Mark Cavendish celebrates as he crosses the finish line to claim his third career victory at the Grand Prix de l'Escaut in Schoten,

because it's here that I took my first professional win," said Cavendish, who also won here in 2008.

"It's been a frustrating season so far. I'm racing a lot this season, and I've had some bad luck, so it's good I can get the wins in, too."

Cavendish added: "The team did a perfect job, chasing down the break and then getting me to the front as they always do."

"(Team-mate) Leigh Howard worked very hard in the last few kilometers, then I came past him and went for the win."

Cavendish's only other win this season was in the sixth stage of the Tour of Oman.

The GP de l'Escaut is held over 200km and is usually controlled by the sprinters' teams in anticipation of a bunch finish.

Cavendish finished ahead of Russian sensation Galimzyanov, of Team Katusha, with plenty of room to spare.

Moments before then American rival Tyler Farrar was taken out of the equation after clashing with Belgian Wouter Weylandt.

Another Belgian, Tom Boonen, had started as one of the race favourites but was not in contention for the finale after crashing twice during the race.

SCHOTEN, Belgium (AFP) – Britain's Mark Cavendish sprinted clear of the field to claim his third career victory at the Grand Prix de l'Escaut yesterday.

The HTC-Highroad sprinter, a 15-time stage winner on the Tour de France, steered clear of danger in a crash-marred finale to finish ahead of Russian Denis Galimzyanov and Belarussian Yauheni Hutarovich.

Cavendish has endured a mediocre start to his season, so the Isle of Man rider was only too happy to find success at the scene of his maiden professional victory, in 2007.

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Europeans target Masters assault



World number 1 Martin Kaymer

AUGUSTA, Georgia (AFP) — European domination of world golf will be complete should the last bastion of the former US hegemony fall here this week at the 75th Masters.

Already the US Open and USPGA are safely in European hands, while the British Open has seen a European winner in two of the last four years.

The Ryder Cup is back in the European fold and the world top 10 is dominated by European players, notably filling the top four slots until Phil Mickelson's win at Houston last week hoisted him back up to third.

Only the Masters stubbornly refuses to fall with the last European winner being Jose Maria Olazabal in 1999, a triumph that brought down the curtain on the last era of European domination.

Why that should be remains a mystery to most, especially given the way that Europeans dominated the tournament in the 1980s and 90s when Nick Faldo (3), Seve Ballesteros (3), Bernhard Langer (2), Olazabal (2), Sandy Lyle and Ian Woosnam all pulled on the famous green jacket symbolic of Masters supremacy.

But the prospects of a European win on Sunday at Augusta National have never been higher with more than a quarter (26) of the 99-strong field hailing from Europe.

World No. 1 Martin Kaymer, No. 2 Lee Westwood, No. 4 Luke Donald, No. 5 Graeme McDowell, No. 6 Paul Casey, and No. 9 Rory McIlroy are all being touted as potential winners.

Among the fancied outsiders are Englishmen Ian Poulter and Justin Rose and Padraig Harrington.

For many it was Irishman Harrington who unleashed this tidal wave of European talent with his breakthrough wins at the 2007 and 2008 British Opens and the 2008 PGA Championship.

"You can probably thank Padraig a little bit for that," Englishman Donald agreed.

"Him going out and winning the majors inspired some of the Europeans to kind of follow that whole cliché of, 'If he can do it, so can we.'"

"European golf since then has gone from strength to strength and hopefully it will only take one European to win a Masters for a bunch of them to follow."

Blazers lose, clinch playoff berth

PORTLAND, Oregon (AFP) — The Portland Trail Blazers clinched a playoff berth despite losing 108-87 to Golden State, who got a season-high 20 rebound performance from David Lee.

Lee also had 29 points while Monta Ellis added 30 points for the Warriors, who led by as many as 26 points.

LaMarcus Aldridge had 17 points and 12 rebounds for the Blazers, who saw their

eight-game winning streak at the Rose Garden arena halted.

Portland secured a spot in the post-season just before the half when the Houston Rockets lost 104-101 to Sacramento.

It will mark Portland's third consecutive trip to the playoffs.

Last year they were ousted in the opening round by the Phoenix Suns, and the year before they were eliminated in the first round by Yao Ming's Houston Rockets.

Golden State's win could

not hide the fact they were already eliminated from playoff contention and have not made it to the post-season since the 2006-07 season.

The teams were tied 19-19 at the end of the first quarter and 47-47 at halftime.

Ellis nailed two three pointers late in the third quarter to put the Warriors ahead 75-66.

He stretched their lead to 92-72 by hitting a 20-foot jump shot with just over eight minutes remaining in the fourth.

Messi Facebook page draws over 6 million

BUENOS AIRES (AFP) — Following tens of millions of other social media fans worldwide, Barcelona mid-field star Lionel Messi set up a Facebook page on Wednesday.

In contrast to his electronic peers, however, within just a few hours his page had attracted more than six million followers.

Such popularity warranted a speedy response from the Argentina international.

"Welcome to everyone and thanks for all the messages you have been sending me. Now we shall be closer with Facebook," said the two-time world footballer of the year, whose followers come from all corners of the globe.

Messi, 23, was later hoping to help propel Barcelona towards the Champions League semi-finals with Barca taking on Ukraine's Shakhtar Donetsk at the Nou Camp Wednesday.

Assuming the three-time winners advance they will likely face La Liga rivals Real Madrid, 4-0 up from their first leg with Tottenham - a semi-final which will doubtless attract a welter of further posts from player and fans alike.



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Arizona 6, Chicago 4



CHICAGO, IL - APRIL 06: Manager Kirk Gibson #23 of the Arizona Diamondbacks congratulates pitcher J.J. Putz after a win over the Chicago Cubs at Wrigley Field on April 6, 2011 in Chicago, Illinois. The Diamondbacks defeated the Cubs 6-4. (AFP photo)

Players take their case to court

ST. PAUL (AFP) - The NFL and its players were in court on Wednesday, the players asking a judge to grant an injunction that would lift the lockout imposed by owners after contract talks between the parties broke down.

The players argue that the lockout, the first work stoppage in the United States' most popular spectator sport since the 1987 strike, is causing "irreparable harm" to their careers.

US District Court Judge Susan Richard Nelson said it would take "a couple of weeks" to rule on the injunction request.

In the meantime, she urged both sides to go back to the negotiating table and try to settle their differences there.

Billionaire team owners and multimillionaire players have been unable to agree on how to divide more than \$9 billion in annual revenue.

The owners want to take more of the revenue off the top before sharing the rest

with players, but players said owners didn't offer enough financial information to back up that demand.

The injunction request heard Wednesday accompanies an antitrust lawsuit that players filed against the league after talks broke down on March 11, when the union decertified as a bargaining body.

The three highest-profile players among the named plaintiffs in the players' lawsuit -- superstar quarterbacks Tom Brady, Peyton Manning and Drew Brees -- did not attend the hearing.

Among the players who were in court were Mike Vrabel, Ben Leber, Vincent Jackson, Brian Robison and Von Miller, who were all named as plaintiffs in the case.

Although the 2011 season isn't scheduled to begin for several months, James Quinn, a lawyer for the players, told the court: "All of these players are being affected every day by being locked out."

Advantage United as Rooney stuns Chelsea

LONDON (AFP) - Wayne Rooney scored the only goal as Manchester United put one foot in the semi-finals of the Champions League Wednesday with a 1-0 victory over Chelsea.

Rooney -- who has been at the centre of a furore over his foul-mouthed tirade at a television camera last weekend -- shrugged off the controversy to fire United ahead on 24 minutes.

The victory was United's first over Chelsea at Stamford Bridge since 2002 and left Sir Alex Ferguson's side firm favourites to progress from the quarter-finals ahead of next Tuesday's second leg at Old Trafford.

But the defeat has left Chelsea with a daunting task if they are to achieve their dream of winning the only piece of silverware that has eluded them since Russian billionaire Roman Abramovich's 2003 takeover of the club.



Rooney celebrates

Only twice before in the Champions League knockout rounds has a team recovered

from losing a first leg match at home to advance to the next round.

Attacking master-class sees Barca blast Shakhtar



Barca players celebrating their win

BARCELONA (AFP) - Barcelona took a major step towards the Champions League semi-finals with a commanding 5-1 win over Shakhtar Donetsk as clinical

finishing proved the difference between the sides.

Andres Iniesta gave Barca a lead right from the start but Shakhtar spurned a number of good chances to draw level

before Dani Alves and Gerard Pique extended the lead.

Yaroslav Rakitskiy pulled a goal back for the Ukrainians but Seydou Keita immediately responded for the home side and then Xavi Hernandez gave the Catalan side a resounding win.

There were no real surprises in the Barcelona starting line-up with Pedro Rodriguez only fit enough for the bench and so Iniesta was pushed into attack with Keita providing a more defensive feel in midfield.

At the back as in the 1-0 victory over Villarreal at the weekend, Sergio Busquets started alongside Gerard Pique with Carles Puyol injured.

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